

GENERAL ORDERS, } HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

No. 18. }

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, February 21, 1862.

The following Orders have been received from the War Department:

I.--The Governors of States are legally the authorities for raising Volunteer regiments and commissioning their officers. Accordingly no independent organizations, as such, will be hereafter recognised in the United States service. Copies of the Rolls of Muster into service will be sent as soon as practicable to the Governors of the States to which they belong by the commanders of all brigades, regiments, or corps heretofore recognised as independent of State organizations; and all vacancies of commissions in such regiments and corps will be hereafter filled by the respective Governors according to law. Wherever a regiment is composed of companies from different States, it will be considered as belonging to the State from which the greatest number of companies was furnished for that regiment.

II.--Paragraph 1121 of the Revised Regulations for the Army, of 1861, is amended by adding as follows: In special cases of hard service or exposure, the Quartermaster General may authorize the ration of grain to be increased not more than three pounds, upon a report recommending it by the Chief Quartermaster serving in a Military Department, or with an Army in the field.

III.--It has been brought to the notice of the Secretary of War that officers of the Volunteer forces frequently correspond directly with the authorities of the States in which their regiments were raised, and thus procure supplies of clothing and other stores in excess of the Regulation allowance. All requisitions should be made as pointed out in the Regulations, upon the Chief Quartermaster of the Department or Army corps, who will transmit them, through the regular official channel, to the officer in charge of the dépôt from which the supplies are to be drawn. All clothing provided heretofore by State authorities and not yet issued, will be turned over to the officers of the United States Quartermaster's Department, who will, as far as possible, issue supplies provided by the States to the troops of the same respectively.

The allowance of clothing, &c., which is prescribed in the Army Regulations should never be exceeded, except in urgent cases ; and when exceeded, the circumstances making such extra issues necessary should be distinctly and fully set forth on the requisitions, to enable the proper officer to act upon them understandingly. The articles of clothing issued to troops are charged against each man, and must be paid for on final settlement of his pay accounts.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL McCLELLAN: **L. THOMAS,** *Adjutant General.*